

## Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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R 071952Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7602

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1546

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EGEN, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELA NAMES PETROLEUM OFFICERS TO CANADA,  
MEXICO, GUATEMALA AND BRAZIL

1. FOLLOWING ARE NAMES AND AVAILABLE BIODATA ON VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS BEING ASSIGNED TO THE SUBJECT VENEZUELAN EMBASSIES AS PETROLEUM COUNSELORS, ATTACHES, AND IN ONE CASE AS ECONOMIC COUNSELOR.
2. BRASILIA - ZUNE GORRIN DETAILED AS PETROLEUM ATTACHE. HE HAS BEEN WITH THE VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION (CVP) MORE THAN TEN YEARS. PRESENT POSITION IS CHIEF OF PLANNING. THIS BACKGROUND SHOULD BE USEFUL IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES LEADING TO AN EVENTUAL OIL SUPPLY AGREEMENT, SINCE CVP WOULD PROBABLY BE THE VENEZUELAN AGENCY TO ADMINISTER SUCH AN AGREEMENT. GORRIN IS ABOUT 40 YEARS OF AGE AND MARRIED. NO OTHER DETAILS KNOWN.
3. GUATEMALA CITY - ROMER BOSCAN DETAILED AS MINISTER COUNSELOR FOR PETROLEUM AFFAIRS. HE HAS SPENT MANY YEARS IN MINISTRY OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS. DESCRIBED AS A LIGHTWEIGHT WHO HAS NEVER HELD AN IMPORTANT POST IN THE MINISTRY. HE RESIGNED FROM THE MINISTRY ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, ENTERED PRIVATE BUSINESS AND WAS UNSUCCESS-  
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FUL. HE RECENTLY RETURNED TO THE REVERSION OFFICE OF THE MINISTRY

AND VOLUNTEERED FOR A DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENT. IN THEORY, HE HAS AREA RESPONSIBILITY FOR CENTRAL AMERICA BUT HIS ACTUAL STATUS OUTSIDE OF GUATEMALA IS VAGUE. HE IS ABOUT 40 AND MARRIED, WITH FOUR CHILDREN. HE IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AT POST BY MARCH 1.

4. MEXICO CITY - CARLOS DE CASTRO DETAILED AS COUNSELOR FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. HE HAS BEEN WITH MINISTRY OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS SINCE 1970 AS CONSULTANT FOR OIL PRICES AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS. WHILE WITH MINISTRY, HE WAS DETAILED FOR ONE-YEAR STUDY WITH VENEZUELAN EQUIVALENT OF MILITARY WAR COLLEGE BY FORMER COPEI GOVERNMENT MINES MINISTRY, AND THUS HAS STIGMA OF FORMER ADMINISTRATION. NEVERTHELESS, HE ENJOYS CONFIDENCE OF SEVERAL SENIOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING POWERFUL DIRECTOR OF HYDROCARBONS, AND TO A CERTAIN DEGREE, THE PRESENT MINISTER VALENTIN HERNANDEZ. PRIOR TO MINISTRY, DE CASTRO WORKED FOR FOUR YEARS WITH VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION. HE ATTENDED HIGH SCHOOL IN TEXAS AND GRADUATED IN PETROLEUM ECONOMICS FROM TULSA UNIVERSITY IN 1963 HE IS 36 AND MARRIED, WITH TWO DAUGHTERS. HE IS FLUENT IN ENGLISH.

DE CASTRO IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE MEXICO CITY FEBRUARY 13, IN TIME FOR VISIT OF PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ. HE WAS DETAILED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH MEXICAN ECONOMIC MISSION WHICH VISITED CARACAS TWO WEEKS AGO, AND ALSO WITH THE DELEGATION THAT ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HERE LAST SUMMER. DE CASTRO MET VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TOMEXICO IN DECEMBER 1974 ON A RETURN TRIP FROM THE UNITED STATES. HE WAS TOLD THEN THAT HIS POSITION WOULD BE ECONOMIC RATHER THAN STRICTLY PETROLEU SO HE IS FULLY CONVERSANT WITH THE ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS THAT HAVE RECENTLY BEEN INITIALED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. DE CASTRO IS AWARE THAT MESSAGE IS BEING SENT TO OUR EMBASSY IN MEXICO CONCERNING HIS ASSIGNMENT. HE WAS PROVIDED NAMES OF PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND WILL CERTAINLY CONTACT AMERICAN EMBASSY UPON HIS ARRIVAL. YOU WILL FIND HIM FRIENDLY AND AN EXCELLENT CONTACT.

5. OTTAWA - RAMON HERRERA NAVARRO DETAILED AS PETROLEUM ATTACHE. PRESENT POSITION IS CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL MARKETS DEPARTMENT IN MINISTRY OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS. HERRERA HAS HELD THIS POSITION FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS, BEING PROMOTED FROM CHIEF OF U.S. MARKET IN SAME DEPARTMENT. HE HAS WORKED MANY YEARS FOR THE MINES MINISTRY, AND ALSO WAS DETAILED FOR A TOUR AT OPEC HEADQUARTERS. CONFIDENTIAL

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TERS IN VIENNA SOME YEARS AGO. HERRERA HAS REPUTATION AS SERIOUS AND HARD WORKER WITHIN MINISTRY. HE IS MARRIED, ABOUT 40 YEARS OF AGE, AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNKNOWN. HERRERA IS BELIEVED TO UNDERSTAND ENGLISH WELL AND SPEAK IT WITH DIFFICULTY; HOWEVER, HE NEVER USES ENGLISH HERE IN CARACAS. HE REPORTEDLY IS GOING TO OTTAWA RELUCTANTLY, HAVING TRIED TO BACK OUT OF THE ASSIGNMENT. MCCLINTOCK

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